



PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Docket No: Q68754

Keiki NERIISHI, et al.

Appln. No.: 10/083,415

Group Art Unit: 2878

Confirmation No.: 7378

Examiner: Albert J. Gagliardi

Filed: February 27, 2002

For: METHOD FOR READING RADIATION IMAGE FROM STIMULABLE
PHOSPHOR SHEET

SUBMISSION OF SUBSTITUTE SPECIFICATION

OK TO ENTER 4/11/04
MAIL STOP PGPUB

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Pursuant to your request in the Office Action dated August 25, 2003, we are enclosing a substitute specification wherein the lines are double-spaced. No new matter has been added.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to acknowledge receipt of this substitute Specification.

Respectfully submitted,

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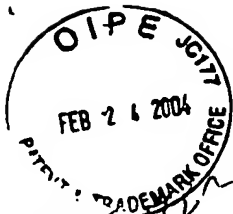
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Date: February 24, 2004



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METHOD FOR READING RADIATION IMAGE
FROM STIMULABLE PHOSPHOR SHEET

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FIELD OF THE INVENTION

The present invention relates to a method for reading radiation image from a stimuable phosphor sheet in which a latent radiation image is contained, and an apparatus for the radiation image reading method.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

When a stimuable phosphor is exposed to a radiation such as X-ray, it absorbs and stores a portion of energy of the radiation. The stimuable phosphor then emits stimulated emission according to the level of the stored energy when the phosphor is exposed to stimulating light.

A radiation image recording and reproducing method utilizing the stimuable phosphor has been widely employed in practice. This method utilizes a stimuable phosphor sheet (also called, radiation image storage panel), and comprises the steps of causing the stimuable phosphor of the phosphor sheet to absorb radiation energy having passed through an object or having radiated from an object; sequentially exciting the stimuable phosphor with a stimulating light such as a laser beam to emit a stimulated emission; and photoelectrically collecting the